

24. A purified mammalian HARE, comprising:

C1 a protein which is able to specifically bind at least one of HA, chondroitin and chondroitin sulfate, the protein comprising a sequence essentially as set forth in SEQ ID NO:2.

28. A purified mammalian HARE, comprising:

C2 a protein which is able to specifically bind at least one of HA, chondroitin and chondroitin sulfate, the protein comprising a sequence essentially as set forth in SEQ ID NO:25.

C3 42. A purified composition, wherein the purified composition comprises a functionally active HARE polypeptide, wherein the functionally active HARE polypeptide has an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of an amino acid sequence essentially as set forth in SEQ ID NO:2 and an amino acid sequence essentially as set forth in SEQ ID NO:25.

C4 88. A purified mammalian HARE comprising a protein having a molecular weight in a range of from about 175 kDa to about 190 kDa which is able to specifically bind at least one of HA, chondroitin and chondroitin sulfate, wherein the HARE comprises a sequence essentially as set forth in at least one of SEQ ID NO:2 and SEQ ID NO:25.